



# SHOT TALK



## Flu Season Is Here!

Influenza ("flu") season is now upon us, but it's not too late to get a flu shot. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), receiving a flu shot later in the season is still an effective means of providing protection against influenza. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) is continuing to provide flu and pneumococcal immunizations at all of its 17 health district clinics throughout the city. The cost of receiving an influenza immunization is \$10 and pneumococcal is \$20. Persons who present a Medicare Part B, Medicaid, CareLink, Community First or CHIP card at the time of service can receive a flu shot at no cost. Persons who show proof of Medicare Part B coverage will not be charged for their pneumonia shot.

Seniors aged 65 older are highly encouraged to receive an annual influenza vaccination and one lifetime pneumococcal vaccination. Any person 6 months of age or older wanting to protect themselves against the influenza virus, especially persons with a chronic medical condition, is also urged to receive a flu shot. For information regarding flu clinics throughout the Bexar County area, call 207-8750.

## Flu Confirmed in San Antonio and across Texas

On December 11, 2002 San Antonio confirmed it's first case of influenza type B according to SAMHD Epidemiologist Roger Sanchez. Two weeks prior, TDH officials confirmed that respiratory

illnesses that led to early holiday closings of schools in Northeast Texas were caused by the Hong Kong strain of influenza type B.

"We don't know if all of the illnesses are the flu, but we have laboratory test results on some elementary school students from the Winona school district that were positive for influenza type B," said Paul McGaha, TDH Regional Director, Tyler. Source: TDH News Release November 26, 2002

## New Combination Vaccine Approved

On December 16, 2002, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of a new combination vaccine. Marketed as Pediarix™ (GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines), it protects infants against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and hepatitis B virus. Pediarix™ is the only vaccine marketed in the U.S. that contains DTaP (Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Adsorbed), Hepatitis B Vaccine (Recombinant), and Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV) for administration as one intramuscular injection.

Pediarix™ is recommended for administration as a 3dose primary series to infants at approximately 2, 4, and 6 months of age. Pediarix™ should not be administered to infants

before the age of 6 weeks, and therefore is not indicated for infants born to mothers who are infected with Hepatitis B or whose Hepatitis B status is unknown. These infants should receive Hepatitis B Vaccine shortly after birth and complete their immunization according to a particular schedule. In a trial with the administration of the vaccine at 2, 4, and 6 months of age, Pediarix™-induced immune responses were generally similar to those induced by separately administered licensed vaccines. The most frequently reported adverse reactions to Pediarix™ were local injection site reactions (pain, redness, swelling), fever, and fussiness. In clinical studies, fever occurred more frequently after administration of Pediarix™ than separately administered licensed vaccines.

The official product introduction of Pediarix™ will take place in early January 2003. After that time, the SAMHD Immunization Division will evaluate the purchase and use of Pediarix™ for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The purchase decision will be contingent on the inclusion of this product into the VFC Program with the availability of a federal contract from CDC. When the product is available through the VFC Program all enrolled providers will be informed.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Vaccine Production Halted</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Protect Your Vaccine</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>2003 Hepatitis A Requirement</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Combination Vaccine Study</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>National Hepatitis Conference</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>QA Makes a Difference</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>2003 Plans Underway</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>IAP Wrap Up</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Updates Due In 2003</i>	<i>Page 3</i>	<i>City Holidays</i>	<i>Page 4</i>

## Wyeth Halts Production of Two Vaccines

Wyeth announced in November that it would no longer produce its injectable influenza and pneumococcal vaccines otherwise known as FluShield and Pnu-Imune. According to Wyeth, the company has to reallocate its resources in order to pursue its partnership with MedImmune in developing and marketing FluMist, an intranasal influenza vaccine. Wyeth anticipates that this new product will provide physicians and patients with improved choices for influenza vaccination. FluMist is currently undergoing FDA approval and may become available in the next influenza season, according to Wyeth spokesperson.

Influenza vaccine production for the 2003-2004 season will now rely on Aventis and Evans Vaccines, the two remaining companies producing injectable influenza vaccines. Merck likewise remains the sole producer of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. Providers should order influenza vaccine early next year to ensure timely receipt of flu vaccine for next season.

## Hepatitis A Required in 2003

As mentioned in the October issue of *Shot Talk* there is a new Hepatitis A school entry requirement for some students in Bexar County. Effective **August 1, 2003**, students attending school or day care in **Bexar** county will be required to have received two doses of hepatitis A vaccine (given on or after the second birthday) prior to school entry. **This requirement is only for students born on or after September 2, 1992.** Those students born prior to this date are not required to have the vaccine for school admission. Students that have documentation from a physician attesting to a diagnosed case of hepatitis A (or serologic confirmation) are exempt from vaccination. This documentation must be presented in lieu of proof of

immunization at school or day care entry.

The Hepatitis A series is comprised of two doses, spaced six months apart. To complete the series before the new school year begins schools, providers, and parents should ensure that eligible students receive the first dose before February 1, 2003 and second dose by August 1, 2003. Please remember that this requirement only affects those students mentioned above, generally students aged 2-10 years of age.

SAMHD greatly needs the help of all VFC providers to immunize their patients with Hepatitis A that fall into the indicated age group. The SAMHD public health clinics lack the capacity to immunize the estimated 125,000 students that still need to receive the Hepatitis A series by beginning of school 2003. For more information on school entry requirements go to the TDH web-site [www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/schmain.htm#require](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/schmain.htm#require)

## S.A. Hosts National Hepatitis Conference

San Antonio will host the National Hepatitis Coordinator's Conference January 26 - 30, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. *Integration of Services for the Prevention of Viral Hepatitis* is this year's theme. This conference is designed to provide training and networking opportunities to assist public health and other professionals working with clients at risk for viral hepatitis. Focus will be on prevention of perinatal, infant, childhood, adolescent and adult infections, and include dealing with high-risk populations such as inmates, clients in HIV/STD clinics, substance abusers/injection drug users, and men who have sex with men. Models of integrating hepatitis prevention services into STD, HIV, correctional health, and substance abuse treatment programs will be presented. In-depth, extended workshops or 'institutes' will address

the complex issues of providing services to high-risk individuals. Additional information can be found at the CDC hepatitis web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis> or by calling 1-800-776-8636.

## 2003 Event Plans Underway

Plans are underway for SAMHD's Sixth Annual Vaccines for Children (VFC) Appreciation Breakfast and National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) activities. SAMHD partners, collaborative agencies, and Vaccines for Children Providers will be invited to participate in activities scheduled during NIIW 2003. The VFC Appreciation Breakfast is an opportunity for SAMHD to recognize all of its immunization partners and kicks off NIIW, which is April 13 - 19, 2003. Speakers and activities for NIIW events are in the planning stages, and more information will be included in the March issue of *Shot Talk*.

The SAMHD staff wants to make the Sixth Annual VFC Appreciation Breakfast and NIIW activities the best yet. Any suggestions you or your staff may have will be appreciated. Call Pamela Williams at 207-2869 with your ideas for NIIW 2003.

## Time To Update Your VFC Enrollment and Profile

It is time for VFC providers to update their enrollment and profile. To accomplish this **annual CDC requirement** the VFC Program will mail VFC enrollment/profiles for updating in January 2003. Any provider whose enrollment/profile is 11 months old or older will be required to update these documents.

Correct and accurate information on the VFC enrollment and profile are crucial to provider's successful participation in the VFC Program. The enrollment form is the provider's agreement to adhere to VFC requirements and enables providers to receive VFC vaccine. The profile data submitted

determines the amount of vaccine providers receive.

Failure to submit these required documents can adversely affect vaccine delivery. VFC staff will be available to assist in accomplishing this program requirement. **The VFC enrollment and profile are due back to the VFC staff by January 31, 2003.** Mark your calendar now! If you have questions regarding your profile or enrollment contact Jorge Reyes at 207-2862.

### Protect Your Vaccine With New Temperature Logs!

There may not be a better mousetrap, but there IS a better temperature log for vaccine storage! A new and improved log sheet helps prevent a common human error made when recording daily temperatures. A new and improved monthly log sheet, courtesy of the Michigan Department of Community Health, makes it harder not to notice when a recorded temperature is out of range. Instead of writing in the temperature on a blank line next to the date and time in an ongoing diary-style log, the recorder locates the temperature in a vertical column of possible temperatures and marks an "X" on that temperature's line under the date of the month, with days 1-31 spanning the top of the page, in the new monthly table-style log. If the "X" lands in a gray-shaded block of horizontal temperature cells, that means the temperature is out of range and you should consult your clinic's protocol for what to do next. Perhaps the vaccines need to be moved to another refrigerator. You may need to call the vaccine manufacturer or SAMHD's Vaccine Management. A gray temperature cell tells you that you need to do something to protect your vaccine.

The new temperature logs are included for your immediate use in this issue of Shot Talk. For more information on the new temperature log contact Bridget Gonzales at 207-2863.

### Vaccine Study May Reduce Jabs

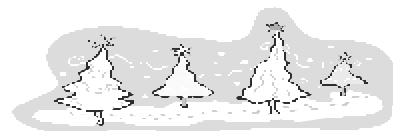
The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is conducting a study on Pentace<sup>TM</sup>, a combination vaccine containing DTaP, HIB, and IPV antigens made by Aventis Pasteur, Inc. Eligible clients should be 6-12 weeks of age and in good health. The objective of the study is to determine whether three batches of Pentace<sup>TM</sup> produced at a new manufacturing facility in Canada consistently produce an antibody response equivalent to the batch of Pentace<sup>TM</sup> produced at the current facility. Pentace<sup>TM</sup> was licensed and has been in use in Canada since 1997.

An advantage of the Pentace<sup>TM</sup> vaccine is that children receive one injection instead of three while receiving the same protection. Children in the study will also receive Prevnar<sup>®</sup>, Hepatitis B, M-M-R<sup>®</sup>, and Varivax<sup>®</sup> free of charge. Parents will receive compensation for their time and travel. The study consists of seven visits over a twenty-one month period. For more information, call Julie Alvarado 207-3965.

### Quality Assurance Makes a Difference!

Well, it's the end of the year and what a productive 2002 it has been! The QA/AFIX Team is still wrapping up Quality Assurance/VFC site visits at VFC provider locations to meet and exceed the program goals for 2002. Over the past quarter, the team accomplished the mission of conducting site visits to ensure that enrolled VFC providers are immunizing patients according to ACIP guidelines and adhering to VFC Program guidelines.

Educational feedback sessions, based on site visit results, have



## Shot Talk

helped providers recognize and remove barriers to immunization within their own facilities. The AFIX team is available to offer proven strategies to help providers improve their immunization rates.

We would like to thank the following VFC providers for participating in the QA/AFIX site visit process during the past quarter:

Maria Del Rosario Aguirre, M.D., San Antonio Pediatric Association - San Saba, Pediatrics & Adolescents, Northside Pediatric Clinic, Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., La Mision Family Health Care, Southwest Children's Center, Office of Dr. Shulman, Dr. Muzza, Medi RX Clinic, Campbell A. Griffin Center, Holy Cross Family Practice, Northeast Pediatric Associates, P.A., SAMHD - Outreach-Perinatal Hep B, South San Antonio Family Practice, Jose Karam, M.D., Thomas C. Wascher, M.D., Dr. John J. Garcia, Family Clinics of San Antonio, Dr. Lopez, Dr. Garcia, Dr. Howard Galarneau Jr., D.O., Wesley Primary Care Clinic, South Alamo Pediatric Center, Metropolitan Methodist Hospital, Dulnig House, SAMM Clinic, University Health System - Pediatric Inpatient, Children's Shelter, Infant's Shelter, Health Texas Medical Group, South San Antonio Medical Associates, Dr. Tenorio, Dr. Cuming, Primary Care Associates, Robert K. Johnson, M.D., Shantha Kesavulu, M.D., Dr. Cantu, Christus Santa Rosa Healthcare, Dr. Mueller, Las Palmas Minor Emergency Clinic, Nacogdoches Walk In Medical Clinic, Mary K. George, M.D., St. Mary's University Student Health Ctr., Dr. Cortado, Dr. Chintapalli, Office of Dr. Tamez, Office of Dr. Michael Dorsa, and Nix Health Care System.

**Congratulations** are in order for the following providers that achieved impressive immunization coverage rates this quarter: Fernando A. Guerra, M.D. (96%), Southwest Children's Center (91%), Northside Pediatric Clinic (89%), La Mision Family Health Care (86%), Maria Del Rosario Aguirre, M.D. (85%), Pediatrics & Adolescents (83%), and San Antonio Pediatric Association - San Saba (83%). This means that these facilities have worked to ensure that over 80% of the children

seen by their practices are up-to-date on their required immunizations of 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, and 3 Hep B by 24 months of age. Each of these facilities invested substantial efforts toward improving children's immunization coverage levels within their practices. **OUTSTANDING JOB!! Continue the great work!!**

VFC providers are encouraged to use the Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA) to simplify keeping patient's immunization status up-to-date. The software is *free* of charge and the QA/AFIX staff is available to assist with training and installation. For more information or to schedule a site visit, please contact Kenya Wilson at 207-3974.

### IAP 2002 WRAP UP

The SAMHD Immunization IAP (Infant Action Plan) Program is tasked with establishing and implementing successful strategies to improve the health of children 0-2 years of age by increasing community-wide immunization rates. As the year comes to an end, the IAP Program's Outreach and WIC/Immunization Linkage Projects would like to thank all the immunization partners that helped make 2002 a successful year. While the final numbers are not complete, the highlights of 2002 accomplishments are impressive.

★ In January 2002, IAP played host to the National Conference on Immunization Coalitions that was sponsored by the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. IAP was instrumental in the planning and preparation of this conference, which had over 300 attendees from all over the U.S.

★ In April 2002, the IAP and VFC Programs organized National Infant Immunization Week activities, and hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vaccines for Children Appreciation Breakfast. Over 300 guests attended the breakfast.

★ IAP program staff provided educational or informational slide presentations on vaccine-preventable diseases to SAMHD staff and clientele, parent groups, caregivers, public schools, day care centers, businesses and technical schools. These presentations were conducted in both English and Spanish.

★ The program co-sponsored three Back-to-School Immunization Clinics where over 3,347 doses of vaccines were administered to 1,514 clients. The VFC Program also provided the vaccines that helped several VFC Providers and other partners hold their own Back-to-School Immunization Clinics.

★ IAP distributed approximately 22,000 pieces of immunization literature/booklets, (some in both English and Spanish), over 10,000 incentives (bibs, magnets, pens, pencils, etc.) at health fairs and other outreach events. IAP expanded distribution efforts to include WIC clinics and the City of San Antonio Literacy Centers. Also during 2002, IAP issued 575 free copies of immunization records.

★ IAP initiated a media campaign with KABB to promote immunizations in the community.

★ IAP staff assessed Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) client immunization records for accuracy, prior to their WIC appointments. The staff provided reminder/recall for SAMHD WIC clientele 0-2 years of age that was found to be behind in their immunizations.

★ During immunization record assessment and reminder/recall the IAP staff update the San Antonio Immunization Registry with new or missing shot history information.

★ IAP produces and distributes a bi-annual newsletter that contained new and upcoming program updates.

## Shot Talk

If you have IAP questions please contact Pamela C. Williams at 207-2869.

### City Holidays

*Christmas Eve & Christmas Day  
December 24 & 25, 2002*

*New Year's Day  
January 1, 2003*

*Martin Luther King Day  
January 20, 2003*

*President's Day  
February 17, 2003*

### Immunization Program Contacts

Program Operations: Mark Ritter, MHA	207-8794
Public Health Advisor: Thomas Finke, MPA	207-2870
Clinical Operations: Lynn Seeman, RN	207-8804
Hepatitis Program/Surveillance/Rabies: Nancy Walea, RN	207-2087
VFC Coordinator: Vivian Flores	207-2868
Vaccine Ordering: Anthony Johnson	921-1178
Infant Action Plan/WIC Linkage: Pamela Williams	207-2869
Vaccine Studies: Brenda Lemke, MHA	207-2859
Registry/Info. Systems: Walter Widish, MS	207-8792
Adolescent/Adult Program: Rita Salazar	207-8877
AFIX/QA Program: Kenya Wilson	207-3974
Foreign Travel: Rebecca Prieto, RN	207-8872

### On-Line Immunization Resources

[www.sanantonio.gov/health](http://www.sanantonio.gov/health)  
[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)  
[www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize)  
[www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip)  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)  
[www.vaccinesafety.edu](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu)  
[www.allkidscount.org](http://www.allkidscount.org)  
[www.immunizationinfo.org](http://www.immunizationinfo.org)

